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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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CW9301934

Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Carl E. Lovett of Calverton, Maryland. Your constituent objects to cable television rate increases, monthly fees for additional hookups, and programs which include commercials.

The Commission adopted new regulations on April 1, 1993, requiring cable systems to reduce subscriber rates to "competitive" levels. For your constituent's further information on this matter, I have enclosed several publications discussing the new rate regulations.

Because cable operators are required to comply with certain signal leakage standards not applicable to traditional telephone services, the Commission administers no regulations that would prevent a cable operator from controlling its cable wiring as far as practicable. The amount a cable operator can charge for extra hookups, however, may be subject to rate regulation.

The Commission has no rules that would prohibit a cable service from carrying advertisements.

I trust that the foregoing and the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart

Roy J. Stewart
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

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Enclosures
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Congressional

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 05/05/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9301934	05/05/93	04/30/93	05/21/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Barbara A Mikulski	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
Carl E Lovett	Inq. re: 1992 Cable Act

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
MMB	Enf	CR	

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
05/05/93	5-5-93	5/6/93	

REMARKS:

OFFICE OF CHIEF

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MASS MEDIA BUREAU

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 30, 1993

Mr. Lauren J. Belvin
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Belvin:

I am forwarding a letter from one of my constituents,
Carl E. Lovett, for your information.

I believe Mr. Lovett has an interesting perspective and
I hope that you will consider his comments as you evaluate
this issue.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:cjp
Enclosure

3107 Craiglawn Road
Calverton, Maryland 20705
Voice (301) 572-5867

Date: April 2, 1993

To: Senator Barbara Mikulski

From: Carl E. Lovett

Subject: FCC Cable Price Restrictions

The Federal Communications Commission's new cable 10% price restraints are not enough.

My personal cable bill has risen at an annual rate of 18% since 1985. This is at a time when the rate of inflation never exceeded 4%. Based on these figures my monthly bill for basic cable should be \$14.25 per month instead of \$25.95 per month. The basic cable rate reduction the FCC should be looking for is somewhere between 30% and 40%, NOT 10%.

In addition, the FCC should insist that cable companies be carriers in the same sense as telephone companies. That is, the cable is brought into one outlet box in the basement of the home. What the subscriber does with the signal after that, as long as it does not degrade the signal or infringe on copyrights, is no business of the cable companies and certainly should not be a charge on the monthly bill (remote controls, VCR hookups, extra TV hookups, etc.).

Finally, the basic cable package must include all programs which carry commercials. Why should you have to pay extra and still watch commercials? All of these programs in the basic package should be transmitted over the cable unscrambled. This would do away with the necessity of having a cable box unless premium channels are desired.

I hope that you will bring these concerns to the attention of the FCC. Your interest is greatly appreciated.

CEL:mn:grpfax02